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(54) **PAPILLA GOWN**

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

(51) **Int. Cl.**
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(52) **U.S. Cl.** 2/114; 2/104
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2/113, 105, 106, 107, 108, 96, 95, 85, 80,
2/83, 79, 69, 88, 104, 94, 249–253; 604/174,
604/179, 345
See application file for complete search history.

A papilla gown includes a cloth web that is adapted to cover
the body of a patient, an elongated hole provided on the cloth
web communicating the inside of the cloth web with the
outside of the cloth web, a pocket attached to the cloth web,
a cover portion that is provided on the outside of the cloth
web and covers the hole, and a fastener that fastens the cover
portion to the outside of the cloth web. The cover portion is
an elongated strip that is pivotally attached to the outside of
the cloth web. The hole is aligned with the breast nipple of
a wearer and the pocket.

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13 Claims, 3 Drawing Sheets

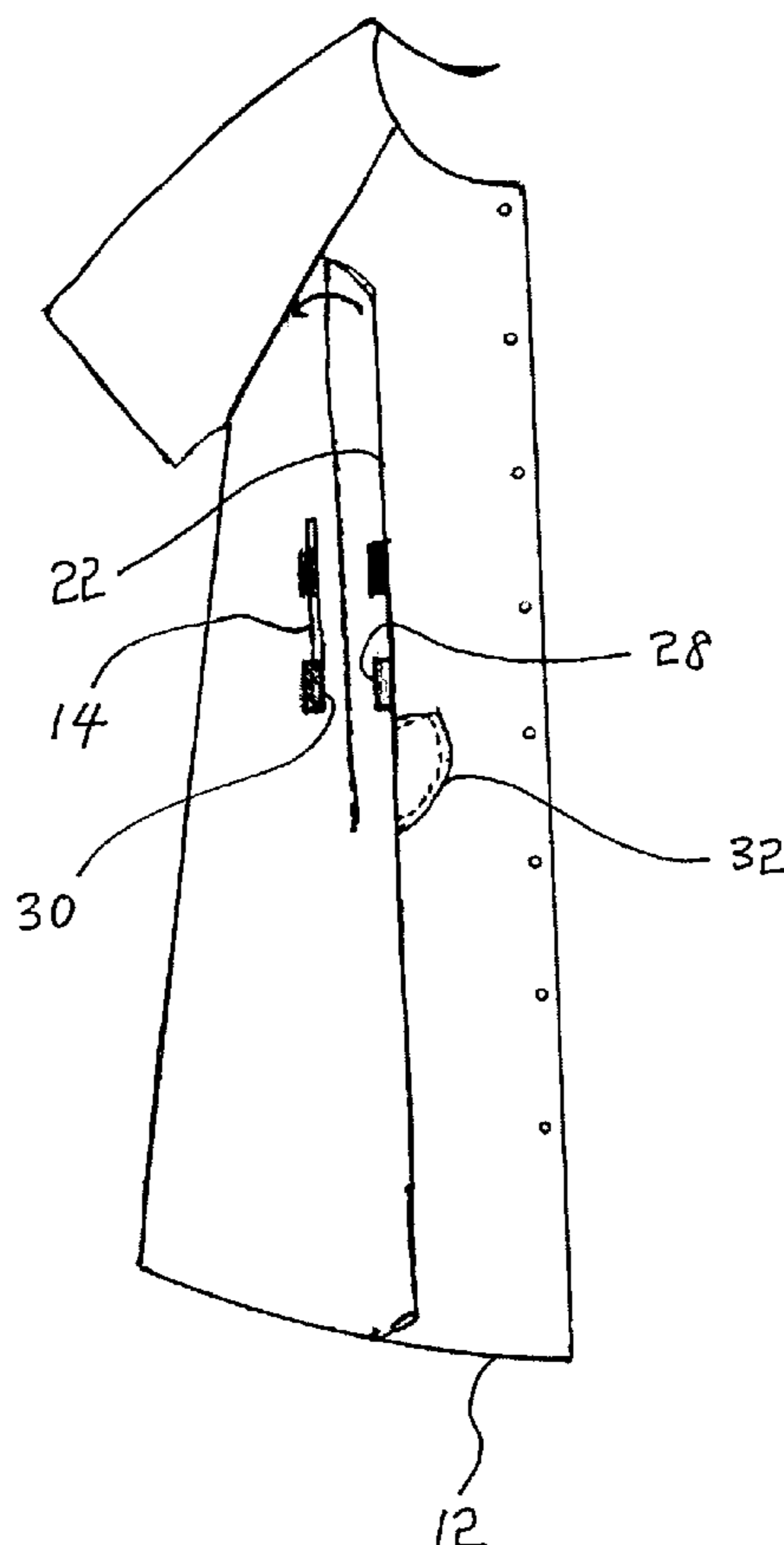


FIG. 1

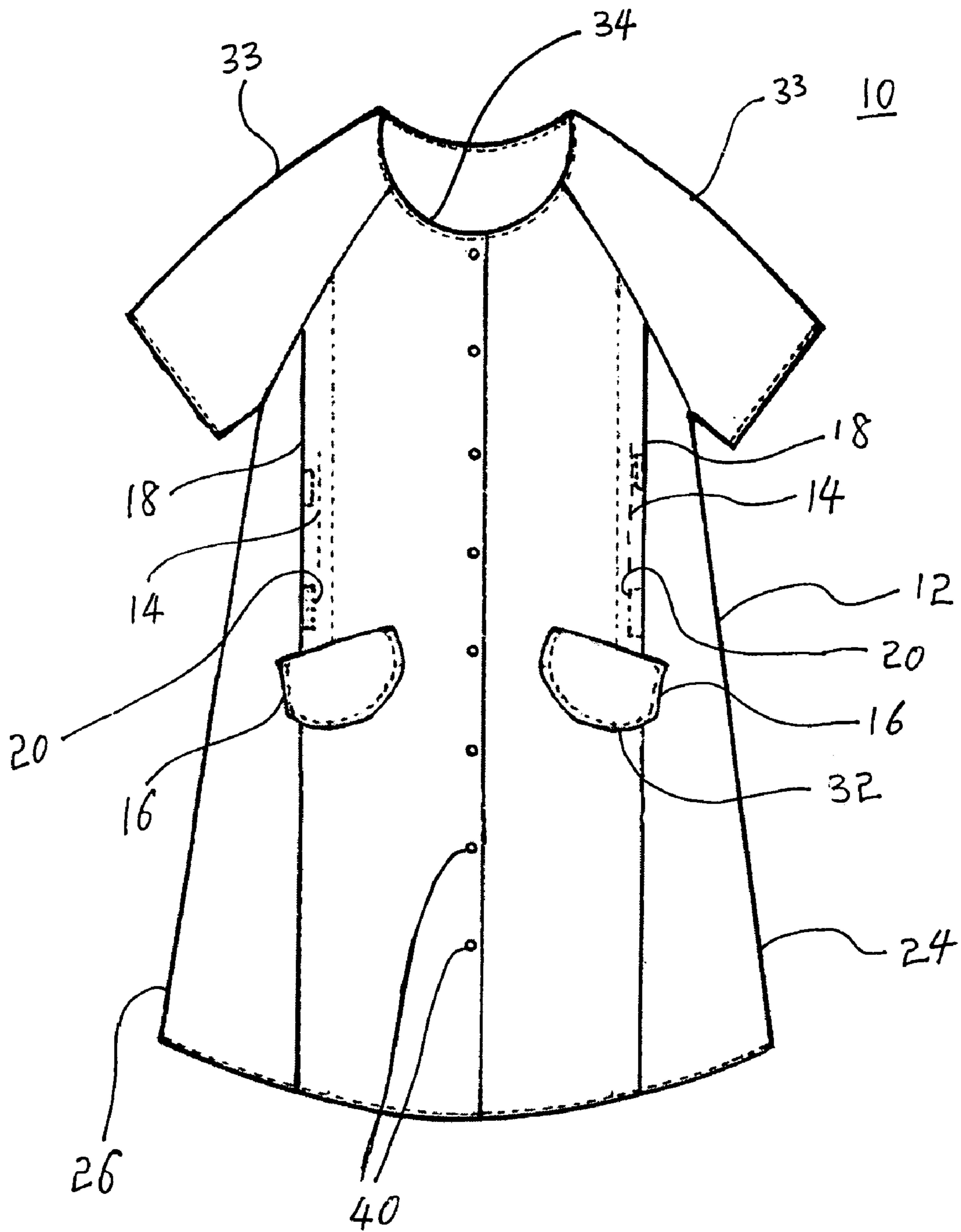


FIG. 2

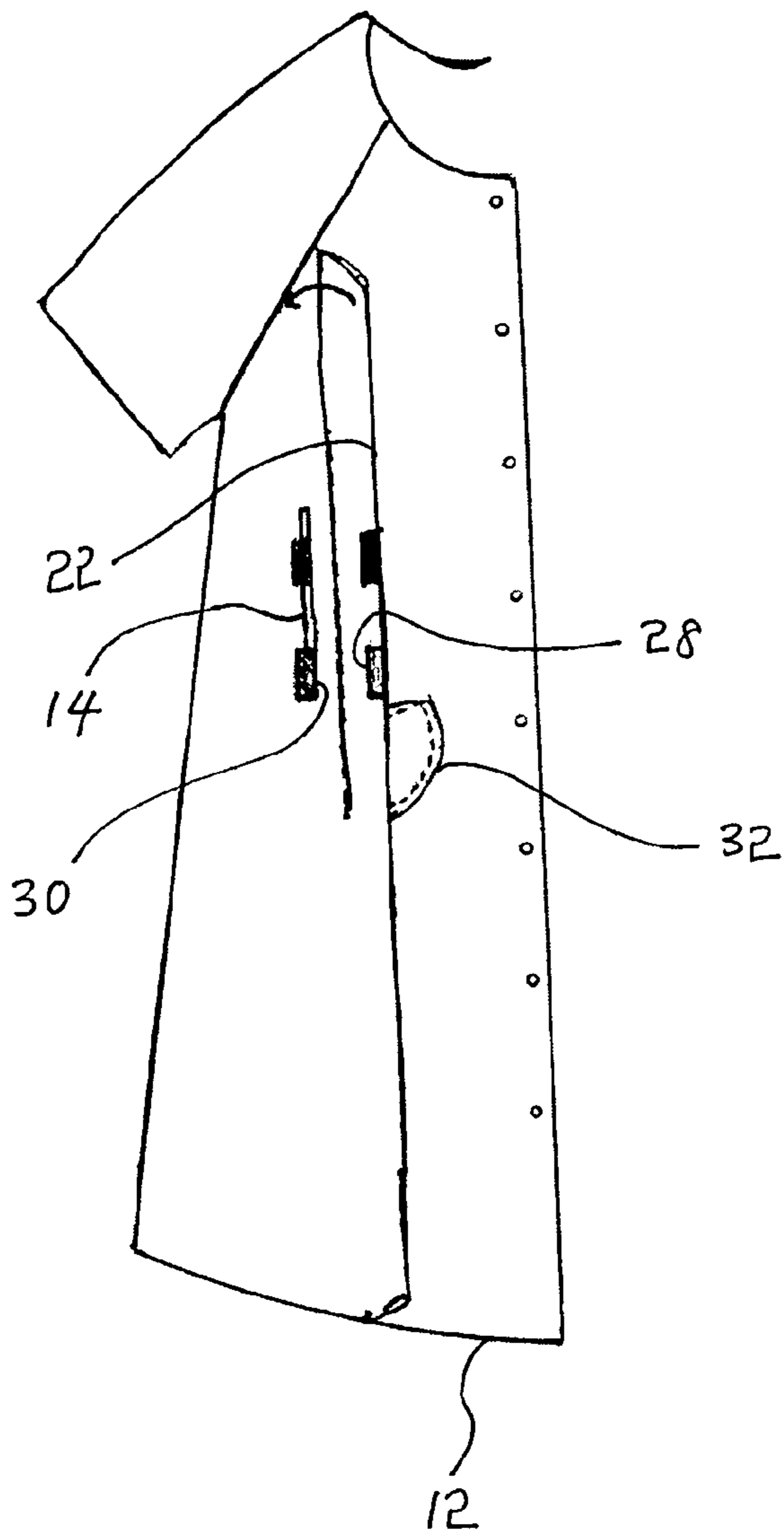


FIG. 3

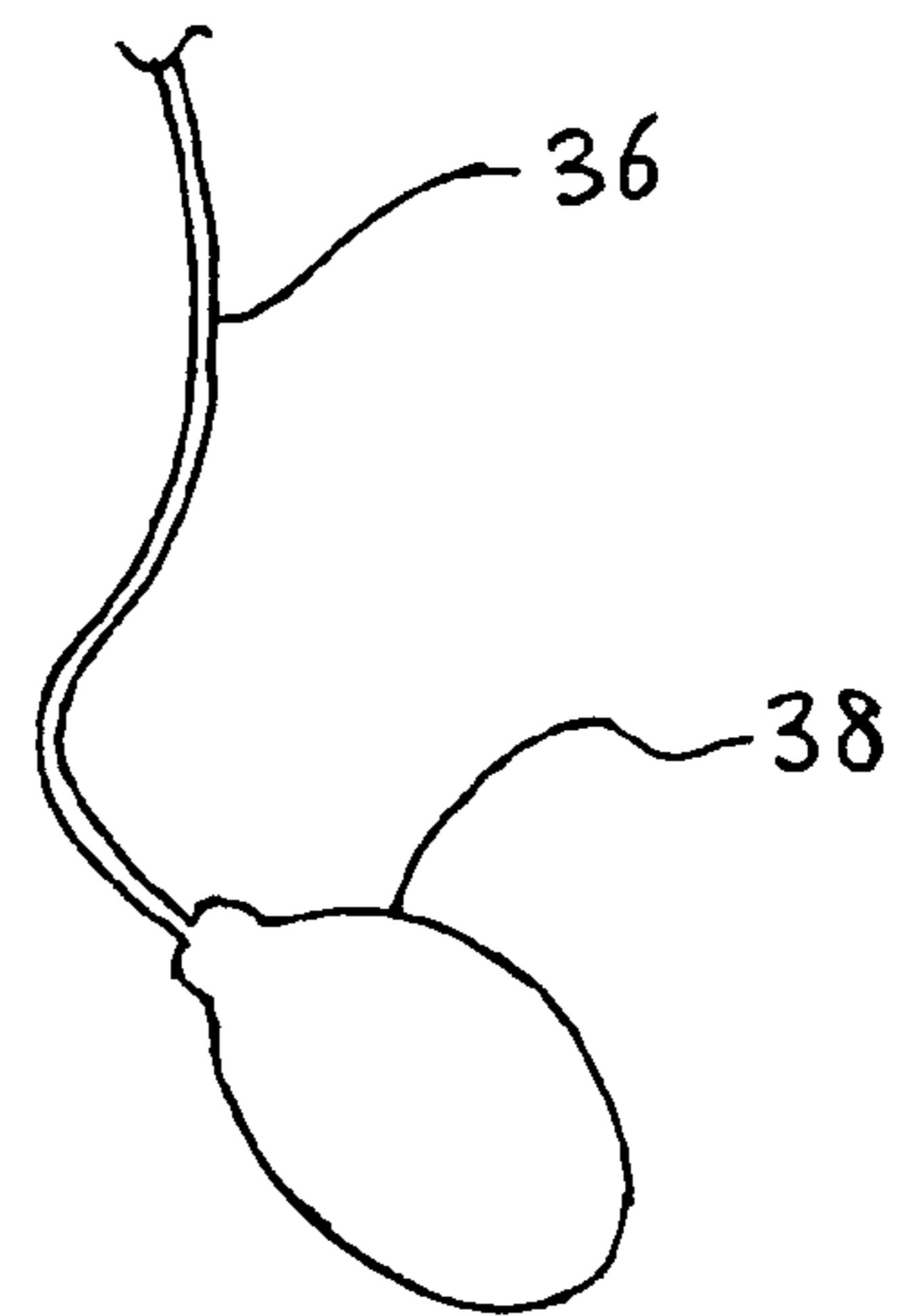


FIG. 4

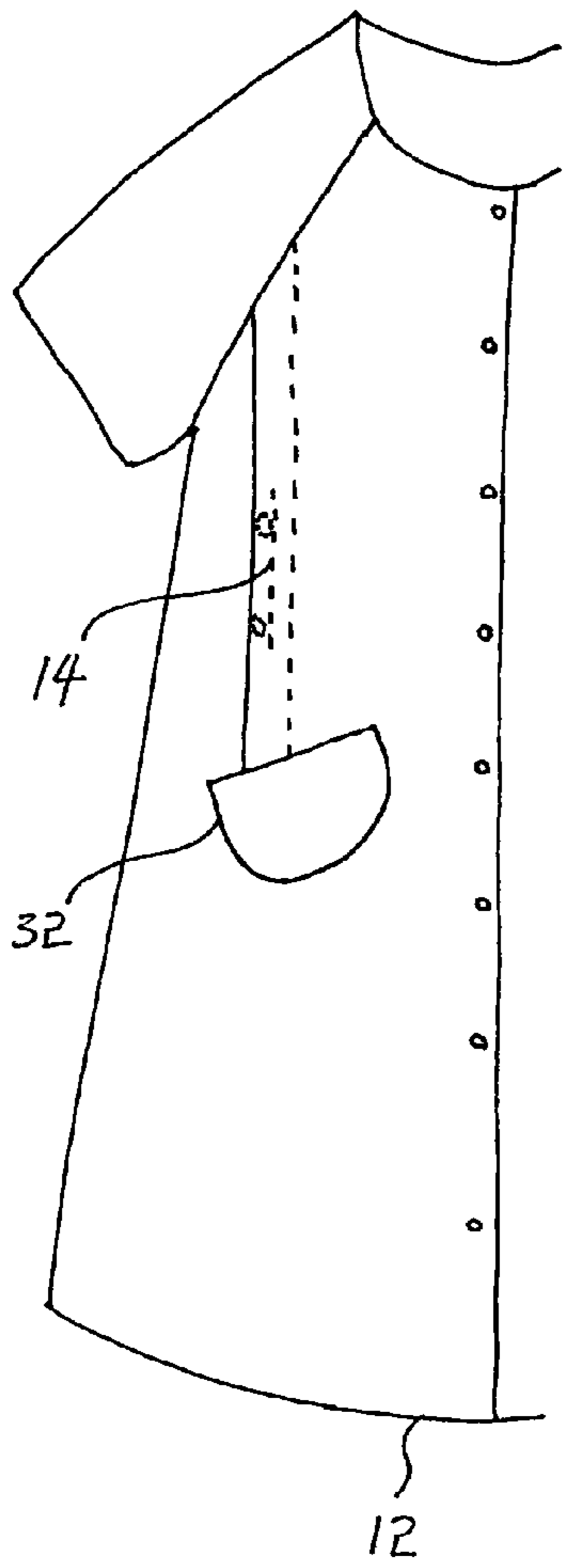
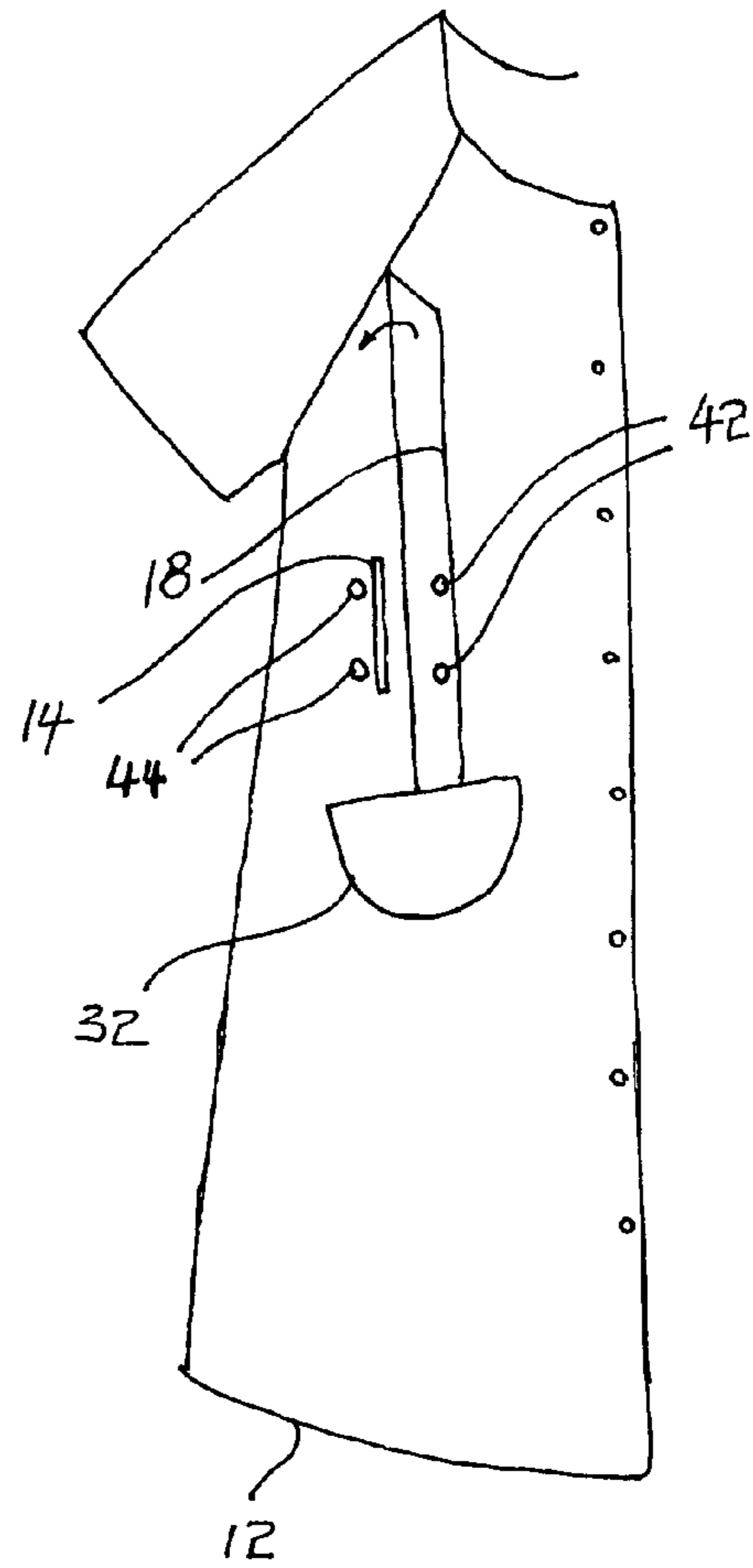


FIG. 5



PAPILLA GOWN

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to a papilla gown, which means a breast gown in Latin word. More particularly, this invention relates to a papilla gown that can be comfortably worn by a patient who needs to use a drainage system after a surgery, especially a breast surgery.

Hospital gowns are usually designed to provide basic function as clothing and easy maintenance in relation to cleaning and sterilizing. In addition, it is desirable for hospital gowns to provide an aesthetic appearance and to facilitate easy access to medical attachments to a patient such as a drainage system that should be used by a patient for some time after a surgery.

While there are many hospital gowns by prior art, no hospital gown provided the desirable combination of aesthetic appearance, good accessibility to a drainage system that is required after breast surgery, and ease of wearing. A hospital gown, or a papilla gown that is convenient to use and wear after breast surgery while providing a variety of functions as a gown has long been in need.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention contrives to solve the disadvantages of the prior art.

An objective of the invention is to provide a papilla gown that provides good accessibility of a drainage system that is required to wear after breast surgery.

Another objective of the invention is to provide a papilla gown that provides function and appearance suitable for a nightgown.

Still another objective of the invention is to provide a papilla gown that facilitates wearing of the drainage system.

Still another objective of the invention is to keep privacy of a patient, when she uses a drainage system.

To achieve the above objectives, the present invention provides a papilla gown that includes a cloth web that is adapted to cover the body of a patient, a hole provided on the cloth web communicating the inside of the cloth web with the outside of the cloth web, a containing portion attached to the cloth web, a cover portion that is provided on the outside of the cloth web and covers the hole, and a fastener that fastens the cover portion to the outside of the cloth web.

The hole has an elongated shape, and the length of the hole is about four inches.

The cover portion includes an elongated strip that is pivotally attached to the outside of the cloth web. The elongated strip is attached to the cloth web longitudinally. The elongated strip has a width of about one inch.

The hole, the containing portion and the cover portion are positioned toward the left side or the right side of the cloth web or both.

The fastener includes a first segment that is attached to the cover portion, and a second segment that is attached on the cloth web. The first segment is engaged with the second segment to fasten the cover portion to the outside of the cloth web. The first segment includes a plurality of hooks and the second segment includes a plurality of loops. The hooks of the first segment engage with the loops of the second segment, and the engaged state is kept by friction.

The first segment includes one or more first fastening elements. The second segment comprises one or more second fastening elements that are positioned alongside the

hole. The first fastening elements are positioned to match the second fastening elements when the cover portion is closed.

The containing portion includes a breast shape pocket sewn to the cloth web.

The cloth web includes two raglan sleeves, and the cloth web is front-opening.

The advantages of the present invention are: (1) the papilla gown is suitable to hold and route a drainage system that is required to wear after breast surgery; (2) the papilla gown has aesthetic appearance suitable for an everyday clothing like a nightgown; (3) the papilla gown facilitates wearing of the drainage system; (4) the design of the cover portion and the fastener prevents the tube and reservoir in the pocket from being pulled; and (5) the papilla gown protects privacy of a patient by tightly covering the hole through which the tube passes, and hiding the tube and reservoir in the pocket.

Although the present invention is briefly summarized, the fuller understanding of the invention can be obtained by the following drawings, detailed description and appended claims.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

These and other features, aspects and advantages of the present invention will become better understood with reference to the accompanying drawings, wherein:

FIG. 1 is a front elevation view showing a papilla gown according to the present invention;

FIG. 2 is a partial front elevation view of the papilla gown showing a cover portion is opened;

FIG. 3 is a schematic elevation view showing a drainage system including a drainage tube and a reservoir;

FIG. 4 is a partial front elevation view of the papilla gown showing alternate embodiment of a fastener; and

FIG. 5 is a partial front elevation view of the papilla gown showing the fastener is opened.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

FIGS. 1 and 2 show a papilla gown **10** according to the present invention. The papilla gown **10** includes a cloth web **12** that is adapted to cover the body of a patient, two holes **14** provided on the cloth web **12** communicating the inside of the cloth web with the outside of the cloth web **12**, two containing portions **16** attached to the cloth web **12**, two cover portions **18** that are provided on the outside of the cloth web **12** and cover the holes **14**, and two fasteners **20** that fasten the cover portions **18** to the outside of the cloth web **12**.

The hole **14** has an elongated shape, and the length of the hole **14** is four inches. The hole **14** is a very narrow slit.

The cover portion **18** includes an elongated strip **22** that is pivotally attached to the outside of the cloth web **12**. The elongated strip **22** is attached to the cloth web **12** longitudinally. The elongated strip **22** has a width of one inch.

One set of the hole **14**, the containing portion **16**, and the cover portion **18** is positioned toward the left side **24** of the cloth web **12**, or the left part of the papilla gown **10**. The other set of the hole **14**, the containing portion **16**, and the cover portion **18** is positioned toward the right side **26** of the cloth web **12**, or the right part of the papilla gown **10**.

The fastener **20** includes a first segment **28** that is attached to the cover portion **18**, and a second segment **30** that is attached on the cloth web **12**. The first segment **28** is engaged with the second segment **30** to fasten the cover

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portion **18** to the outside of the cloth web **12**. The first segment **28** includes a plurality of hooks (not shown) and the second segment **30** includes a plurality of loops (not shown). The hooks of the first segment **28** engage with the loops of the second segment **30**, and the engaged state is kept by friction. VELCRO strips may be used for the hooks of the first segment **28** and the loops of the second segment **30**.

The containing portion **16** includes a breast shape pocket **32** sewn to the cloth web **12**. The breast shape is commonly defined as a combination of a triangle having dimension of 12×24 cm, and a circle of 24 cm diameter and 9 cm height. The numerical values are approximate.

The cloth web **12** includes two raglan sleeves **33**, and the cloth web **12** is front-opening.

FIG. **3** shows a drainage system that includes a drain tube **36** and a reservoir **38**. Typically, Jackson-Pratt drains and tubes are used as the drainage system. FIGS. **4** and **5** show alternate location of the first segment **28** and the second segment **30**. The first segment **28** includes two first fastening elements **42**. The second segment **30** includes two second fastening elements **44** that are positioned alongside the hole **14**. The first fastening elements **42** are positioned on the cover portion **18** to match and engage with the second fastening elements **44** when the cover portion **18** is closed. The engagement of the first fastening elements and the second fastening elements effectively holds the tube **36** and covers the hole **14** so that part of body of the patient cannot be seen from outside.

The papilla gown **10** is especially suited to be used with "Safety Pouches" carrying Closed (self-contained) Wound Drainage Systems for female breast cancer patients after breast surgeries. The papilla gown **10** is knee-length and made of 100% cotton fabric. The papilla gown **10** may be worn as a nightgown and lounging dress for out patients. The front-opening papilla gown **10** with raglan sleeves **33** and a round neckline **34** incorporates common design features on both, the hospital gown and nightgown. When the Drainage System is not used, the patient can wear the garment as a regular nightgown.

For carrying and securing the Wound Drainage System, the papilla gown **10** has special design features. As shown in FIGS. **1** and **2**, the papilla gown **10** has the cover portion or tuck **18** of one-inch size, the four-inch hole or eyelet **14**, the first and second segments **28**, **30**, and the containing portion, or safety pouch **16**.

A patient can wear the papilla gown **10** with six easy steps. In step **1**, the patient slips into the papilla gown **10** leaving it unbuttoned. In step **2**, the patient thread the drain tube **36** and the reservoir **38** from inside the papilla gown **10** through the hole **14**. In step **3**, the drain tube **36** and the reservoir **38** are passed under the tuck **18**. In step **4**, the reservoir **38** is put in the safety pouch **16**. In step **5**, the first segment **28** on the tuck **18** is closed to secure the drainage System in the papilla gown **10**. In step **6**, snaps **40** on the center front of the papilla gown **10** are closed.

The papilla gown **10** is made with the following steps. In step **1**, the hole or eyelet **14** is made. In step **2**, the the first and second segments **28**, **30** are stitched. In step **3**, the tuck **18** is sewn. In step **4**, the tuck **18** is folded toward side seam. In step **5**, the safety pouch **16** is attached and top stitched.

Referring back to FIG. **1**, the hole **14** is provided in a way that the hole **14** is substantially aligned with the pocket **32** and the breast nipple of a wearer of the papilla gown **10** in longitudinal direction of the papilla gown and the hole **14** is provided below the breast nipple and above the pocket **32**. Referring back to FIGS. **4** and **5**, the elongated strip **22** of the cover portion **18** pivots around a longitudinal pivot axis. The

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elongated strip **22** covers the hole **14** and extends beyond the hole **14** down to the pocket **32**.

While the invention has been shown and described with reference to different embodiments thereof, it will be appreciated by those skilled in the art that variations in form, detail, compositions and operation may be made without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention as defined by the accompanying claims.

What is claimed is:

1. A papilla gown comprising:

- a) a cloth web that is adapted to cover the body of a patient;
- b) an elongated hole provided on the cloth web communicating the inside of the cloth web with the outside of the cloth web;
- c) a containing portion attached to the cloth web;
- d) a cover portion that is provided on the outside of the cloth web; and
- e) a fastener that fastens the cover portion to the outside of the cloth web;

wherein the cover portion comprises an elongated strip that is pivotally attached to the outside of the cloth web, wherein the elongated strip is attached to the cloth web longitudinally,

wherein the containing portion comprises a pocket attached to the cloth web,

wherein the hole is provided in a way that the hole is substantially aligned with the pocket and the breast nipple of a wearer of the papilla gown in longitudinal direction of the papilla gown and the hole is provided below the breast nipple and above the pocket,

wherein the elongated strip of the cover portion pivots around a longitudinal pivot axis, wherein the elongated strip covers the hole and extends beyond the hole down to the pocket.

2. The papilla gown of claim **1**, wherein the length of the hole is about four (4) inches.

3. The papilla gown of claim **1**, wherein the elongated strip has a width of about one (1) inch.

4. The papilla gown of claim **1**, wherein the hole, the containing portion and the cover portion are positioned toward the left side or the right side of the cloth web.

5. The papilla gown of claim **1**, wherein the fastener comprises a first segment that is attached to the cover portion, and a second segment that is attached on the cloth web, wherein the first segment is engaged with the second segment to fasten the cover portion to the outside of the cloth web.

6. The papilla gown of claim **5**, wherein the first segment comprises a plurality of hooks and the second segment comprises a plurality of loops, wherein the hooks of the first segment engage with the loops of the second segment, wherein the engaged state is kept by friction.

7. The papilla gown of claim **5**, wherein the first segment comprises one or more first fastening elements, wherein the second segment comprises one or more second fastening elements that are positioned alongside the hole, wherein the first fastening elements are positioned to match the second fastening elements when the cover portion is closed.

8. The papilla gown of claim **1**, wherein the cloth web comprises two raglan sleeves.

9. The papilla gown of claim **1**, wherein the cloth web is front-opening.

10. The papilla gown of claim **1**, wherein the hole and the cover portion are positioned toward the left side or the right side of the cloth web, wherein the fastener comprises a first segment that is attached to the cover portion, and a second

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segment that is attached on the cloth web, wherein the first segment is engaged with the second segment to fasten the cover portion to the outside of the cloth web, wherein the containing portion comprises a pocket attached to the cloth web.

11. The papilla gown of claim 10, wherein the pocket has a shape that resembles human breast.

12. A papilla gown comprising:

- a) a cloth web that is adapted to cover the body of a patient;
- b) two holes provided on the cloth web communicating the inside of the cloth web with the outside of the gown;
- c) two containing portions attached to the cloth web;
- d) two cover portions that are provided on the outside of the cloth web and cover the holes; and
- e) two fasteners that fasten the cover portions to the outside of the cloth web;

wherein each of the holes has an elongated shape,

wherein each of the cover portions comprises an elongated strip that is pivotally attached to the outside of the cloth web, wherein the elongated strip is attached to the cloth web longitudinally, wherein the holes, the containing portions and the cover portions are positioned

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toward the left side and the right side of the cloth web, wherein each of the fasteners comprises a first segment that is attached to the cover portion, and a second segment that is attached on the cloth web, wherein the first segment is engaged with the second segment to fasten the cover portion to the outside of the cloth web, wherein each of the containing portions comprises a pocket attached to the cloth web,

wherein each of the holes is provided in a way that the hole is substantially aligned with the pocket and the breast nipple of a wearer of the papilla gown in longitudinal direction of the papilla gown and the hole is provided below the breast nipple and above the pocket,

wherein the elongated strip of each of the cover portions pivots around a longitudinal pivot axis, wherein the elongated strip covers the hole and extends beyond the hole down to the pocket.

13. The papilla gown of claim 12, wherein the pocket has a shape that resembles human breast.

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